

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

By this Amendment, claim 1 was amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 5. Claims 4 and 5 were cancelled without prejudice. Claims 6-11 were cancelled as being drawn a non-elected invention. Favorable reconsideration of claims 1-3 is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103. The Office Action rejected claims 1-3 under Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over the “admitted prior art” (“APA”) in view Kreckel et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,491,781). Claim 5 was rejected under Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over the APA in view of Kreckel as applied to claim 1, and further in view of Williams et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,610,386). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection and submit that the amended claims 1-3 would not have been obvious from the cited prior art.

Claims 1-3 were rejected over the admitted prior art in view of Kreckel (US Patent No 6,491,781). As noted in the Office Action, item 6, the admitted prior art in view of Kreckel does not teach the transferable material of the amended claim1 which is formed with a plurality of transferable dots, each of which has a shape selected from a group consisting of a circle, an ellipse, a triangle, a rectangle and a honeycomb. The dots’ distribution on the transferable material enable the image-transfer medium to be strippable as any arbitrary pattern. Therefore, amended claims 1-3 are not anticipated by the APA in view of Kreckel.

Claim 5, which was incorporated into claim 1, was rejected over the APA in view of Kreckel as applied to claim 1, in view of Williams et al. According to the Office Action, “Williams teaches it is known in the art to use a dot pattern on transferable medium.”

Williams’ dot pattern is encoded data in the form of a dot code which is read by a sensor. Because Williams’ dot pattern is encoded data in the form of a dot code, Williams’ dot pattern is not selected by a user. Moreover, Williams’ dot code is transferred *in its entirety to the final object*. Williams, column 2, lines 23-25; column 3, lines 29-30. Williams does not disclose or suggest removing a selected portion of the dot code and transferring a specific pattern vacancy. To do so would, of course, destroy the utility of Williams’ encoded data.

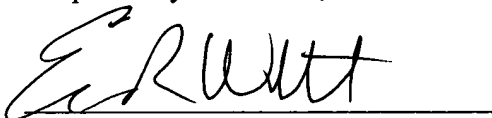
The method of amended claim 1 includes “removing a selected portion of said transferable material to obtain a hollowed transferable material with a specific pattern vacancy; and adhering the remaining transferable material onto said light transmissible surface of said

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article, thereby allowing light emitted by said light source to penetrate through the specific pattern vacancy." *That is, the dots on the image-transfer medium can be selected by a user and the selected dots won't be fixed onto the surface.* There is no teaching or suggestion of these features from Williams, Kreckel, or the APA. Therefore, Applicants submit that the rejected claims would not have been obvious from the combined teachings of the cited prior art. Withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claims 1-3 is respectfully requested.

If there are any remaining issues preventing allowance of the pending claims that may be clarified by telephone, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E. R. Witt", is written over a horizontal line.

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